

THE STATUS OF *SIPHONOPHORA* FISCHER, 1823 (BRYOZOA) AND
THE VALIDITY OF *SIPHONOPHORA* BRANDT, 1837 (DIPLOPODA,
POLYZONIIDA) Z.N.(S.) 2168

By C.A.W. Jeekel (*Institute of Taxonomic Zoology (Zoological Museum),
University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands*)

The present case concerns the validation under the plenary powers of the generic name *Siphonophora* Brandt, 1837, currently in use for a genus in the diplopod order Polyzoniida (= Colobognatha) embracing over 80 nominal species. Until recently the validity of *Siphonophora* Brandt was no point of discussion. Some years ago, however, it was discovered that its status might be menaced by the existence of what seems to be an available name in Bryozoa, *Siphonophora* Fischer, 1823 (Jeekel, 1971: 45).

2. The name *Siphonophora* was proposed by Brandt (1837: 179) for a monotypical genus of diplopods, which was briefly diagnosed. Its type-species, *S. portoricensis* Brandt, 1837, from the island of Puerto Rico, was mentioned by name only. The proposal of the generic and specific names satisfies the provision of the Code as regards availability (Art. 12 and 16a (vi)).

3. Later, especially in the course of this century, many species were described in the genus, which now has become perhaps the largest in the order Polyzoniida. Today *Siphonophora* is used as the valid generic name for over 80 species occurring in the Oriental, Australian and Neotropical regions.

4. The characteristic features of *Siphonophora* soon led to the proposal of a separate family for the genus by Newport (1844: 195). The name SIPHONOPHORIDAE has found general acceptance ever since.

5. Prior to the proposal of *Siphonophora* by Brandt, the name was introduced in literature by Fischer de Waldheim (1823: 11) as a generic name in Bryozoa. The relevant passage in the cited, apparently very rare publication may be quoted as follows:-

Famil. IV. Celleporae.

Cellulis non irritabilibus, singulis aut
collectis.

Siphonophora. Fisch. *Tubulipora*.
Lam.

Cellepora. Fabr.

6. In the context of the publication the use of the name *Siphonophora*, with the citation of *Tubulipora* Lamarck as a synonym, can be interpreted in two ways: it is possible that Fischer proposed

Siphonophora merely as a substitute for *Tubulipora* for some obscure, though obviously invalid, reason. In this case *Siphonophora* Fischer is an available name, in accordance with Art. 16a (iii) of the Code, although, of course, a junior objective synonym of *Tubulipora*.

7. On the other hand, *Siphonophora* might have been proposed to serve as a generic name for a part of the contents of *Tubulipora* Lamarck. Evidence for such an intention would have been the appearance of *Tubulipora* as a valid genus elsewhere in Fischer's publication. In that case the name *Siphonophora* Fischer, published without diagnosis and without the citation of the valid name of any originally included species, could be easily disqualified as a nomen nudum. However, nowhere in Fischer's publication can a second citation of the name *Tubulipora* be found, so that we have to face the consequences of the first alternative, that *Siphonophora* Fischer, is an available name, and a senior homonym of *Siphonophora* Brandt.

8. In his Nomenclator, Neave (1940: 206) lists *Siphonophora* Fischer as a nomen nudum, and it is therefore important to know the current status of the name in literature on Bryozoa. I put this question to Dr. F.M. Bayer, Miami, U.S.A., who passed it on to Dr. Richard Boardman, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.. From his answer I concluded that, whereas *Tubulipora* Lamarck, 1816, is an important name in Bryozoa which is in wide current usage, and which has a family name based on it, *Siphonophora* Fischer seems to be completely unknown or forgotten.

9. Considering the above, and as nothing is gained by the discontinuation of the use of *Siphonophora* Brandt and SIPHONOPHORIDAE Newport, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Siphonophora* Fischer, 1823, for the purposes of the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the name *Siphonophora* Brandt, 1837 (gender: feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Siphonophora portoricensis* Brandt, 1837, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the name *portoricensis* Brandt, 1837, as published in the binomen *Siphonophora portoricensis* (type-species of *Siphonophora* Brandt, 1837) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) to place the family-group name SIPHONOPHORIDAE Newport, 1844 (type-genus *Siphonophora* Brandt, 1837) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology;
- (5) to place the name *Siphonophora* Fischer, 1823, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1), on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

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